

Claims

We claim:

1. A blood substitute composition comprising a modified hemoglobin, a crystalloid and an aqueous diluent, wherein said composition has an osmolarity greater than 5 800 mOsm/l and a hemoglobin concentration less than 6 g/dl.
2. The blood substitute composition of claim 1, wherein said composition has an osmolarity greater than 2000 mOsm/l.
3. The blood substitute composition of claim 1, wherein said crystalloid comprises sodium chloride.
4. The blood substitute composition of claim 1, wherein said modified hemoglobin comprises a polyalkylene oxide-hemoglobin conjugate.
5. The blood substitute composition of claim 1, wherein said hemoglobin is selected from the group consisting of native hemoglobin and recombinant hemoglobin.